

SIAMESE BUSINESS SHOWS BIG GAINS

Trade With United States Greatly Increased.

According to a report published by the director-general of the Siamese customs, the aggregate declared value of Siam's foreign trade entered at the port of Bangkok for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1920, amounted to 128,429,974 ticals (\$1,322,487) for the imports and to 177,809,569 ticals (\$1,860,135) for the exports, a gain of 25,477,595 ticals (\$270,648) for the former and of 15,269,529 ticals (\$164,726) for the latter, as compared with the previous fiscal year.

The value of merchandise imported from the United States into Siam during the year under review amounted to 9,052,785 ticals (\$95,231,023), against 6,656,129

ticals (\$69,750,044) in 1918-19, 4,798,727 ticals (\$50,775,529) in 1917-18, and 2,881,844 ticals (\$30,666,171) in the pre-war fiscal year 1915-16, while the declared value of Siamese products entered at the Siamese customs for export to the United States for 1919-20 was 643,524 ticals (\$6,828,304), as compared with 429,847 ticals (\$4,562,833) for 1918-19, and 149,965 ticals (\$1,584,459) in the corresponding pre-war fiscal year of 1915-16.

SEE RICE SUPPLY FOR CHINA.

One of the most interesting Government legislative proposals favoring the farmers of Japan is the proposition to contribute to the starving Chinese the 100,000 bushels of rice (Koku equals 5,119 bushels) which the Government bought some time ago when prices were very high and the sale of which would depress the present market. This has been kept so long that it must be used soon, and the prospect of its sale has hung over the rice market.

FAMINE THREATENS MILLIONS IN CHINA

Vast Area Without Food for Man or Beast Through Failure of Crops.

NO REFUGE FOR PEOPLE

Whole Village Moves, but Only to Encounter Same Conditions Elsewhere.

By W. H. DONALD.

PEKING, Nov. 15.—Political news in China has given way entirely as the extent and degree of famine conditions have become better known. Apparently the monumental work of Hoover in stricken Belgium must be surpassed in China during the coming winter, or a population greater than that of Belgium will perish.

By the few people who know, the situation has been viewed with anxiety all summer. First the spring crop withered just before it should have filled, due to lack of moisture. Then the summer crop either could not be planted or also soon shriveled from the drought and hot winds. Locusts in some localities even took the little green that was left. But still the proverbial luck of China was depended upon to bring late rains which would mature sweet potatoes and buckwheat enough to get over the winter. But this hope has faded, and a region roughly 100 miles south of the Yellow River and 100 miles south of it, and extending from close to the east coast westward, no one quite knows how far, is without seed for next year's planting.

Approximately 40,000,000 people are known to be affected. Twenty-five million are in straits and at least 10,000,000 will perish if relief measures of heroic proportions are not forthcoming before cold weather sets in. Lack of communications has prevented knowledge of conditions in other regions, and whole villages have started migratory movements which merely lead them to another stricken district and back to the home soil to die.

Hopeless Outlook for Trade.

What this means to the business of North China is vaguely felt but probably is not widely realized. The price of food is now higher than during normal conditions in every town of North China. What it will be next year, with no farmers to plant a crop, may be imagined. If rural China starves this year, urban China starves next year. Unless the famine can be effectively countered North China as a factor in the world's commerce drops to the vanishing point.

International finance also came to its jolt. Some \$200,000,000 of mortgages based on Chinese Government railways are held abroad. The man who got blood from a turnip will have to be brought to China to get the interest on these bonds out of the earnings of the railways. Nor will like or maritime customs securities be of much avail if trade stops. The ravages of the Taiping rebellion were not more appalling than will be the effects of this famine if nothing be done to meet it.

In 1918 gross operating revenues of the Chinese Government railways were in round numbers \$77,000,000. When revenues derived from Government service and similar items are subtracted the actual commercial revenue is left at about \$70,000,000. Even if this \$70,000,000 was passenger revenue and \$40,000,000 goods revenue, leaving \$30,000,000 to come from several miscellaneous sources. Out of this \$30,000,000 of goods revenue nearly \$20,000,000 came from agricultural and animal products. What will happen both to passenger revenue and to revenue from agricultural products next year is plain to be seen. What effect this will have upon the ability of the railways to meet their interest obligations follows as night the day.

Plans for Relief.

To be sure, the traffic in agricultural products on lines like the Peking-Mudan Railway and the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, which run from regions of plenty to regions of want, will be heavy, for there is still a considerable purchasing power in the districts. The traffic in live animals is heavy now. Before long practically every animal in the stricken districts will have been sold—for a tenth of its normal value—and shipped out. Traffic in 1920 will hold up only what about 1921?

The Peking Government is making every effort to meet the serious situation. It has ordered reductions in grain rates from the food producing region to famine districts and increases in the opposite direction. It has shipped considerable amounts of grain. Government officials in private capacity are organizing vast relief committees, which they are contributing liberally. Action in this private way will be more swift and efficient than by Government agents, as much red tape will be eliminated. And a degree of cooperation from foreigners—even foreign supervision—will be possible, which the Government, as such, would not consider safe.

Almost over night the minds of all people have turned to the subject of public works as a means of alleviating the distress and at the same time achieving something substantial. Though not formally decided upon, there is little doubt that the method of operation will be the division of the population into two classes—able bodies and helpless. The able bodies of both sexes will be assembled upon jobs of public work, such as river dikes, highway construction, railway building and irrigation projects.

Grain will be purchased by a centralized agency financed by the combined funds of all relief organizations. Food kitchens will be established at the works and in villages where the helpless will be concentrated. Each class will be put on a ration, and will have food tickets issued to them by the directors in charge, which tickets will be surrendered to the food kitchens.

Will Build Railroads.

The Ministry of Communications has authorized the building of two short railways as a beginning. One of these is the line from Shih-chia-chuang to Tsangchow, which will serve to connect the province of Shansi with Peking more directly, and will pass through one of the worst famine districts. Another will be the line from Chefoo to a connection on the Shantung line, probably at Weihaiwei. At the same time work is to be pushed on the extension of the line now building toward Suifu on the Mongolian border.

It is sincerely hoped that funds will shortly be available from the Dutch, Belgian loan for the continuance of work on the Lung-Hai line, for this also traverses a famine district. The Siemens Grand Canal project is another, but the hesitation of New York financiers stands in the way of its imminent development.

Several other railway contracts have been lying quiet for some years which ought to be awakened to activity in this emergency. Some of these are held by financial interests whose investments in other lines in China are in jeopardy from the famine. It is not a matter of mere friendship, it is good business to put into these constructive enterprises every

dollar which is necessary to keep alive this vast rural population in North China.

The Four National Group has built the Canton-Hankow railway as far as Chuchow, and there it stops with a relatively short gap to be spanned in order to make it a through line. Every day of delay adds to interest charges which are piling up and to a deficit which is mounting like a rolling snowball. Why can't this combined group muster the relatively small amount which would set that work in motion?

MANCHURIA NEEDS OLD NEWSPAPERS

Material Universally Used for Walls and Ceilings and Demand Constant.

MUKDEN, China, Oct. 1.—There is a big demand in Manchuria for old newspapers, which are used principally for the first layer of paper on interior walls and ceilings of houses. Chinese houses in Manchuria invariably include no ceilings when completed, the ceilings being installed by the tenants or owners after the masons and carpenters have completed their part of the contract. The ceilings are made of a framework of millet stalks, which are, as a rule, first layered with old newspapers and then covered with Chinese white paper. Partitions made in the same manner are also largely used in both shops and dwelling houses.

Old newspapers also are extensively used for wrapping goods in general use of shops. It can be readily seen that a large amount of old newspapers is required to meet the demand in Manchuria, more especially due to the peculiar style of building in general use.

Prior to the war much of this class of paper was imported from Great Britain and a certain quantity from the United States, but throughout the duration of the war these sources of supply were practically cut off. Manchuria was forced to depend upon South China and Japan for the much needed supply.

As a matter of fact the paper imported from southern China and Japan is preferred to that from abroad, as the paper is thinner and more pliable than the foreign article. Another point which appeals strongly to the native buyer is that the Chinese and Japanese products are cheaper than the foreign, more sheets being contained in a pound. Paper of American origin of a thinner grade than that ordinarily used for newspaper purposes would undoubtedly find a ready sale in Manchuria, as the supply of old newspapers seldom, if ever, exceeds the demand.

Attention is called to the fact that there are some 80,000 wool growers in Australia and that subscriptions from such of 200 pounds sterling on the average would provide sufficient capital and labor to take care of the wool produced in the distribution over a period as mentioned above would require only 13 pounds sterling (\$63) from each annually. War gratuities in the sum of \$30,000,000 pounds sterling are to be paid by the Australian Government, and soldiers and sailors are to be encouraged in investing in the shares of these State companies. However, the proposal will require that the investing public, as a whole, participate, and all are to be encouraged to do so.

One of the chief problems that will confront the successful development of the proposed outlined will be the obtaining of a sufficient supply of efficient and skilled labor. It is estimated that the raising of one-third of the wool produced in Australia would require 7,750 additional hands, assuming that the amount of work per hand remains the same as at the present time. The Chinese population of this one-third wool producing area is estimated to take an additional 106,500 hands. In order to supply this additional labor an increased immigration of Chinese is necessary, as will also facilities for the training of the native labor in the processes of woolen manufacture and in the operation of textile machinery. To that end, courses in the technical training will provide this training will be encouraged.

Inducements for the skilled labor of foreign centers will also be made. It is also to be borne in mind that fifteen years are provided for the supplying of the additional 114,250 employees.

Not to Be Concentrated.

In order to avoid congestion of cities as a result of the growth of the industry it is planned to have such processes as weaving, knitting and carpet making, which lend themselves to the use of a smaller unit, to be done in the smaller towns and communities. Centralization of control of these factories, however, would be effected by each State company. It is believed that the securing, combing, carding and spinning should, for the present, be concentrated in a limited number of centers in order to attain a quantity production and standardization.

The following equipment is regarded as being the minimum of a knitting plant, and it is believed that raw material could be established in the smallest centers. Six automatic knitting machines, two ribbers, one linker and one overlocker (if women's hose are to be made), the total cost of the machinery to be about \$2,300. The carpet making industry, which is especially mentioned as being capable of development in small centers, is believed to have ample raw material in Australia as the basis of a profitable industry. About 3 per cent of the Australian wool is suitable for carpets and tapestries and the facilities at the present time for such manufacture are practically nil.

TEA PRODUCERS PLAN TO REDUCE OUTPUT

Decline in Price Forces Move in London.

LONDON, Nov. 15.—Owing to the decline in the price of tea, 80 per cent of the London-controlled tea-producing concerns have agreed to the Indian Tea Association, signified their willingness to undertake a definite restriction of output, provided such a scheme meets with general approval.

There has been some disagreement as to the method of procedure during the present year, but the committee of the association having this matter in hand has ultimately recommended that the following be adopted:

Either a restriction of the present year's crop to not exceeding 90 per cent of the average annual production of the five-year period 1915-1919, or, if preferred, a restriction of the 1920 crop to 80 per cent of the 1915-1919 average, on condition that the proposed scheme of reduction is supported by at least 85 per cent of the industry.

The London association has cabled to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, informing the members of the association at this end and asking for their support. It is understood that the Ceylon Association, in London, is in sympathy with the proposal to reduce output and is planning to make a similar 20 per cent reduction in the 1921 crop.

CHINA TAKES U. S. DYES.

Permanent Market Promised if Conditions Are Met.

The United States at present furnishes very nearly all the dyes used in the district for which Tientsin is the distributing center, and the United States Consul-General Fuller asserts that if American manufacturers are willing to meet the requirements of this trade by furnishing the actual product demanded, the packing and shipping methods and the selling at the lowest price consistent with good quality, they will be in the market permanently.

The packing method suited to this demand is that of one catty, or 1-1/2 pounds, paper parcel, properly packed with the requisite trade tickets thereon, and the goods made up in cases. The colors in greatest demand are blue black, dark brown and scarlet.

U. S. MOTOR CARS POPULAR.

American Authorities Almost Have Monopoly in China.

SHANGHAI, Oct. 1.—Though statistics are not available, it is estimated that from 75 to 90 per cent of the motor cars imported into China are of American make. As indicative of the growth of the automobile trade in China, it is noted that imports of motor cars there have increased from 162 in 1913 to 961 in 1919.

Most of these are four or five passenger cars, only 20 or 30 per cent being of the heavier seven passenger type. The clincher style of automobile shoe is used on many of these cars, and for the trucks, which are of the lighter kind, both solid rubber and pneumatic tires are used.

AMERICAN TYPEWRITER GAINS

HANKOW, Oct. 1.—American typewriters are popular and in great demand, practically monopolizing the market since the disappearance of the German machine. The inauguration of commercial courses and the establishment of typewriting schools in Hankow have created a demand for rebuilt typewriters as well as new machines. Imports of typewriters and accessories into Hankow in 1919 are valued in the maritime customs returns at \$10,735.

AUSTRALIA PLANS WOOL INDUSTRIES

Ultimate Object Is Manufacture of Entire Clip—People to Get Shares.

GOVERNMENT BACKS IT

Great Number of Workers Will Be Needed to Carry Out Project.

MELBOURNE, Oct. 15.—With the ultimate objective of having Australia manufacture her entire output of wool, the Bureau of Commerce and Industry has initiated a movement looking to the immediate construction of factories and the early supplying of the Australian market with locally manufactured woolen goods.

In a recent report of the bureau estimates and plans are drawn up providing for the development of the industry over a period of fifteen years such as will permit of the manufacture of one-third of the present clip. This would be about 200,000,000 pounds of greasy wool yearly. To that end numerous conferences of the wool growers have been called and various committees appointed to investigate the advisability of the proposal.

It is proposed to form one company in each of the six Australian states to carry on the manufacture of woolen goods to be sold to the people of that state in its respective state and to be entrusted with the formation of policies in marketing and manufacture in that section. In order to insure a common policy it is further suggested that as the state companies are formed they call a meeting and appoint a central company to advise upon such matters as selection of machinery, the way to secure the wool, the purchase of machinery, the marketing of the woolen goods of the entire Commonwealth and the standardization of buildings, machinery, patterns, etc.

Will Sell Shares to People.

It is estimated by the best authorities of the Commonwealth that it will require 16,000,000 pounds sterling (\$77,600,000) to develop the industry so far as the wool clip is concerned. It is proposed to offer shares in each of the State companies at a face value of one pound sterling per share. The shares of each of the six State companies are proposed in order that the financing of the enterprise will not exceed the rate of development.

Attention is called to the fact that there are some 80,000 wool growers in Australia and that subscriptions from such of 200 pounds sterling on the average would provide sufficient capital and labor to take care of the wool produced in the distribution over a period as mentioned above would require only 13 pounds sterling (\$63) from each annually. War gratuities in the sum of \$30,000,000 pounds sterling are to be paid by the Australian Government, and soldiers and sailors are to be encouraged in investing in the shares of these State companies. However, the proposal will require that the investing public, as a whole, participate, and all are to be encouraged to do so.

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JAPAN NOT TO FORTIFY ISLANDS IN PACIFIC

Will Live Up to League Mandate, Official Asserts.

TOKYO, Nov. 14.—Capt. Nomura, 4th to the Minister of the Navy, speaking in the name of the Minister, said every report that Japan was fortifying or planning to fortify and establish bases in the mandated Pacific islands is wholly and completely false. According to the Kowloon Agency, he declared that Japan is living up strictly to every mandate under the terms of the League of Nations covenant.

Premier Hamaguchi, addressing 5,000 of his supporters, said that no question had been recently watched than the anti-Japanese legislation in California. He declared it would be regrettable if the question affected the good relations of Japan and the United States, but that a conflict was unthinkable.

Intelligent people in both countries value each other's friendship too much for that, the Premier asserted, and the United States never yet had disregarded Japan's rights and interests, no matter what questions arose between the two countries. Premier Hamaguchi asserted the belief that a majority of Americans did not endorse California's recent action. He expressed confidence that the Washington negotiations would result in a satisfactory settlement.

HANDS OFF CHINA, EDITOR DEMANDS

Civil Strife Working in the Direction of Progress, He Asserts.

China is housecleaning and wants no foreign interference. Also her civil strife is simply evidence of the new era of progress upon which her people have entered, according to the editor of the Canton Times. In a recent editorial he said:

"From time to time some section of the foreign press in China suggests foreign intervention as the only hope of ending the present internal conflict in China, not knowing that the progress of China is having its real beginning in the present war. One of the reasons for the impatience of foreigners toward a struggle which to them seems unprofitable is the possible interference with trade, their sole object of coming to China."

"A review of the trade reports published by the Chinese Maritime Customs, however, will show that in spite of the political division of China trade has improved over previous years, as far as figures are concerned, and the figures, especially the dollars and cents, are what most of the foreigners here want, as our imports exceeded our exports, since we bought from foreigners much more than they bought from us."

"While we are struggling among ourselves we have always been careful not to cause damage to foreign residents in order to avoid having their Governments present big bills for slight injuries done, and also to prevent some of their snobbish consuls from intimidating the old, innocent Chinese officials into acts involving national dishonor. Civil war has been going on for the last three years, but it has caused practically no international inconvenience. Whatever damage we have done to our own people has been insignificant when compared with the harm done by labor strikes and racial riots in foreign countries."

It is unnecessary to mention the recent events in Mexico, Russia, Ireland, Egypt, India and other countries to show that not only the Chinese but also other peoples are fighting for their national rights against those who seem to think they are the whole thing on earth because of better political, economic or intellectual advantages."

"If the foreign governments had been not misled by their mostly second rate diplomats they have sent to China and had not adopted the 'strong man' policy by recognizing traitors like Yuan Shikai, Tuan Chih-jui, Chang Tso-lin and others as the possible dictators who might bring peace to China, the present civil war would have ended long ago."

"While we have no right to ask for foreign aid in our purely domestic matters, we have every cause to complain of and protest against the one-sided assistance to the enemy of the country, the Chinese militarists and foolish politicians who have been unlawfully mortgaging national resources and public assets to foreigners who will, no doubt, sooner or later be considered but receivers of stolen property."

"China now, with the dishonest officials and unscrupulous militarists on top and in the front, indeed looks helpless, rotten and miserable, but among the great mass of Chinese people we have able statesmen and loyal citizens, as we all have under the surface of our ground untold wealth and resources which will some day count much in the council of nations and in the world of finance and commerce."

"China asks for no intervention, but for less interference, so that her people may solve their own problems. When a family is having a housecleaning it is better for bookkeepers and insurance solicitors to withdraw for awhile."

SOUTH AFRICA BUYS MORE HARDWARE HERE

Trade Commissioner Gives Hint to Exporters.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—South Africa imports ordinarily about \$12,000,000 worth of hardware, according to a report on the subject prepared by American Trade Commissioners Lindquist and Williams, and just published by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce of the Department of Commerce.

More than \$2,000,000 worth of this business now comes to the United States. The territory involved includes British South Africa and the neighboring colony of Portuguese East Africa.

Since 1914 the United States has made substantial progress in supplying hardware to this territory, and the ready investigators are of the opinion that with proper care and attention to special requirements much of the present trade can be retained and new and profitable lines developed.

To aid American manufacturers to maintain and improve their position in this market is the purpose of the report. It discusses the market for particular lines of hardware—hammers, saws, shovels, cutlery, builders' hardware, cabinet hardware, and in fact, all the important items generally included in the hardware classification. It also takes up trade methods and suggestions and refers to a list of the names of hardware importers and dealers in all the principal cities of South Africa.

JAPAN INCREASES PHILIPPINE TRADE

Cotton Cloth, Coal and Cement Big Items.

TOKYO, Oct. 10.—Japan's trade with the Philippine Islands has shown a constant and satisfactory increase since 1915, and for the first half of this year the trade totalled \$12,480,000. Until 1912 the trade with the Philippines had never amounted to more than \$5,000,000, but after the outbreak of the war this trade increased rapidly. In 1919 the trade total was \$15,475,000. Of the trade for the first six months of 1920 \$6,875,000 represented exports to the islands.

The principal items and their values for the first six months of the last two years are as follows:

EXPORTS.	1919.	1920.
(Values in Yen=100 U. S. \$.)		
Cotton cloth.....	1,100,000	1,250,000
Coal.....	1,000,000	1,200,000
Cement.....	240,000	1,000,000
Iron and steel.....	100,000	800,000
Silk and garments.....	600,000	800,000
Machinery.....	400,000	400,000
Silk and silk goods.....	400,000	300,000
Iron and ware.....	500,000	300,000
IMPORTS.		
Sugar.....	2,000,000	2,700,000
Rice.....	1,315,000	1,448,000
Copra meal.....	547,000	547,000
Tobacco.....	434,000	525,000

FUR PRICES FALL IN JAPAN.

Fur prices in Japan have declined until present quotations are from one-third to one-half less than a month or two ago. Japanese fur, which has been so large in demand, is now quoted at \$12.50 to \$17.50. Siberian black martin has dropped to \$85. Reports from Manchurian fur dealers tell of inactive markets.

CHINA RECLAIMING FOREIGN CONCESSIONS

Restoration of National Sovereignty the Aim.

That China is definitely working toward the restoration of Chinese sovereignty to Chinese soil and to the elimination of extra-territoriality is further shown by the Presidential mandate just issued which withdraws from the Russian diplomatic and consular officers in China all forms of recognition and further declares that jurisdiction is assumed over all Russians in China. It further revokes all concessions formerly made to Russia.

This action on the part of the Chinese Government is unprecedented for display of independence and national spirit. For decades China has made no move of importance without consulting the consent of the "interested" Powers. At the same time this action was being discussed a bill was introduced into the House of Representatives providing for the abolition of foreign post offices in China. It is quite probable that this bill will not be voted upon until after the international Postal Conference is held at Madrid, but these new attitudes of the Chinese toward foreign intruders are especially significant.

IMPERIAL AUTOMOBILES NOW.

By the first of the year the new imperial motor carriages for their Majesty the Emperor and Empress of Japan will have been completed and installed in the imperial household garage. Their delivery will mark the passing of the last magnificent coaches of state in the Far East.

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